

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE PRESENT INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. An insect repellent substrate for repelling lice and the like insects and for attachment to a garment, the substrate comprising:

5 a strip of fabric base material impregnated with a repellent carrier composition and being adapted to attach to the garment in a manner that will ensure continuous contact of the insect repellent substrate with the wearer's hair or body, the carrier composition including a mixture of wax and
10 an insect repellent whereby, in use, the wearer's body heat causes the carrier composition to soften to provide a controlled release of the insect repellent from the fabric base material.

15 2. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 1, wherein the insect repellent is a naturally occurring compound.

3. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 2, wherein the insect repellent includes an extract from the pyrethrum flower.

20 4. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 3, wherein the insect repellent is a pyrethrum solution.

5. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 1, wherein the carrier composition further includes one or more scented or aromatic oils.

25 6. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 5, wherein the carrier composition includes citronella oil and rosemary oil, which are also mild insect repellents.

7. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 2, wherein the carrier composition further includes neem oil,

- 12 -

a naturally occurring insect repellent.

8. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 1, wherein the wax is a paraffin wax.
9. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 4, wherein the carrier composition includes between 0.5% to 6.0% by volume of pyrethrum.
10. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 9, wherein the carrier composition includes between 0.5% to 4.0% citronella oil.
11. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 10, wherein the carrier composition includes between 0.5% to 5.0% rosemary oil.
12. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 11, wherein the carrier composition includes between 3.0% to 9.0% neem oil.
13. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 12, wherein the carrier composition also includes between 0.5% to 6.0% eucalyptus oil.
14. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 13, wherein the carrier composition includes 30 mls of pyrethrum (50% w/w), 20 mls of citronella, 25 mls of rosemary and 45 mls of neem oil to every one litre of wax.
15. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 1, wherein the fabric base material is a felt material.
16. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 15, wherein the fabric base material is a polyester/cotton blend felt material.

- 13 -

17. A method of manufacturing an insect repellent substrate for repelling lice and the like insects for attachment to a garment, the method comprising the steps of:

producing a repellent carrier composition by:

5 heating a wax to a liquid state; and,
mixing an insect repellent with the liquid wax;

10 dipping a strip of fabric base material into the carrier composition whilst still in the liquid state for a sufficient length of time to allow the base material to absorb some of the carrier composition;

allowing the impregnated strip of base material to cool so that the carrier composition solidifies on the base material to form said insect repellent substrate; and,

15 attaching the substrate to the garment in a manner that will ensure continuous contact of the insect repellent substrate with the wearer's hair or body whereby, in use, the wearer's body heat causes the carrier composition to soften to provide a controlled release of the insect repellent from
20 the fabric base material.

18. A method of manufacturing an insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 17, wherein the insect repellent is a naturally occurring compound.

25 19. A method of manufacturing an insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 18, wherein the insect repellent includes an extract of the pyrethrum flower.

20. A method of manufacturing an insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 19, wherein the insect repellent includes a pyrethrum solution.

- 14 -

21. A method of manufacturing an insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 17, wherein the step of producing the repellent carrier composition further includes mixing one or more scented or aromatic oils with the liquid wax.

22. A method of manufacturing an insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 21, wherein the scented oils include citronella oil and rosemary oil, which are also mild insect repellents.

10 23. A method of manufacturing an insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 17, wherein the step of producing the carrier composition further includes mixing neem oil with the liquid wax.

15 24. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 1, wherein the garment is an item of headwear.

25. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 24, wherein the garment is a headband and said insect repellent substrate is sewn onto the inside of a stretch fabric forming the headband.

20 26. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 1, wherein the insect repellent substrate is removably attached to the garment using hook and loop fastening material.

25 27. An insect repellent substrate as defined in claim 26, wherein the garment is a baseball cap.